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THE  
CONFESSION  
AND  
EXECUTION  
OF

Mr. Rich. Langhorn,

LATE  
COUNSELLOR  
OF THE  
TEMPLE,

*who was Executed for his Treasonable Practises against the Life of his most Sacred Majesty, and the true Protestant Government, on Monday the 14th of this Instant July, 1679. With an Account of his Deportment in Newgate, and at the place of Execution. With several other remarkable Circumstances.*

**I**N vain is warning to such desperate men who will not see their Errors, but Hood-wink themselves upon *the verge of Fate*, and never consider, till it is too late, what a *vast and boundless depth* Eternity still beares; for were such men but sensible, it sure would start them from those fond Opinions that betray their Souls, and make them Equivo- cate and to deny a perfect truth when tumbling down into an *immortal State*; as has been plainly seen and heard by those foregoing *Romanists*, who have their lives most justly paid for *Diabolick Crimes* by them design- ed, the which extended to the Murder of their Native Prince, to gratifie ambitious Tyrants far remote; nay, so much did *Hell-bred Malice* prompt them on, that regardless of the place which gave them birth, they did intend to *crimson* it with steaming slaughter pressed from out so many hundred thousand guiltless Souls; and surely, like the hundred handed Giants they would have invaded Heaven too, had not the *great Jehovah* looked down and quell'd their daring arrogance, &c. But he of whose de-   
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served though most shameful down-fall and Catastrophe I here must treat, that he in such preposterous ways should tread, the which no doubt do tend to Death and Hell : It might, in most that knew him, raise an *admiration*, he being counted heretofore a *sober, serious, prudent man*, and in his way a *most devout Professor of honesty and true allegiance to his Prince* ; but Holy Writ declares, (*the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked, above all things, who can know it,*) for often under the verdent fragrancy a *poisonous Serpent* lurks, whose sting does bear inevitable death. So this *Richard Langhorn*, for so is his name, made his outward dealing as a Cloak to shroud the vilness of his Soul ; but notwithstanding all his flights, yet his pernicious ways were pryed into, and Justice found him at the last ; nor could his shiftings save him from its hand, for on *Saturday* the fourteenth of *June 1679.* he was brought to his Tryal at the *Sessions-house* in the *Old-Bayly*, where holding up his hand, he was Arraigned for High-Treason ; that he the said *Richard Langhorn* did cast off all due Allegiance to his Sovereign Lord the King, and that he did Traiterously joyn and conspire with several notorious Villains, and that for the propagating the *Romish Faction*, to subvert most inhumanly, and barbarously to expel and violate the life of his most Sacred Majesty, his lawful Sovereign, having carried on the said Hellish Design for many years, sending and receiving Letters from *Rome* and *France*, as likewise complotting with *Le Cheese*, the *French Kings* Confessor, and with *Christopher Aderton*, Rector of the *English College at Rome* ; in which Letters he gave them notice from time to time how Affairs were carryed on in *England*, and what courses they were best to put in execution for the effecting their Design, and that he provided, payed and distributed certain sums of Monies to encourage impious *Ruffians*, to promote the design of Massacring all his Majesties loving Subjects that should refuse to joyn or close with their accursed Designs and pernicious Intrigues ; and that he did to the utmost of his power encourage and instruct the chief Traytors ; and that he received several unlawful Commissions from the presumptuous See, signed and sealed for the disposing of Military and Civil Affairs ; and thereby impowered to raise Rebellion in the Land, to harrass, massacre and murder his Majesties Subjects ; and that he the said *Langhorn*, contrary to his Faith and Allegiance to his Majesty taken, and that he by several Letters to the *Benedictine Monks*, did require and procure 6000 *l.* towards the making up the sum promised for the poisoning his Majesty, &c. and that his practice had been for many years imployed to serve and promote the interest of the *Romish Faction*, in carrying on their pernicious designs ; these and many other tedious Circumstances were layed to his charge, of which these I have premised are the Heads, the whole Argument being too tedious here to insert ; to these he pleaded not guilty, but the Witnesses for the King appearing and giving in their Evidences in the Court, they were most plainly proved, *Dr. Qates* swearing positively to each particular that was any wayes of any concernment ; as likewise *Mr. Bedloe*, *Mr. Dugdale*, and *Mr. Prance*. &c. who positively swore to many Principles and particulars, but the said *Langhorn* denied each Circumstance, abjuring whatsoever was alledged against him, putting many cross questions upon the Witnesses for his own defence, but the Witnesses was so plain in every particular, managed to the height, that his Scarlet Crimes

were



were most detestably abhorred by all that heard them, except his own disastrous *Roman Practitioners*; for these and such like Crimes, after a long audience of all that he could alledge in his own defence, the Court and the King's Counsel having given instructions to the Jury, they after half an hour debate brought him in guilty of High-Treason; whereupon the Court proceeded to give Sentence, That he according to his treasonable deserts, should be Draw'd, Hang'd and Quarter'd, the which the Law in that case provideth for such Capital Crimes: Whereupon he was conveyed back to *Newgate*, where, by his Majesties bounty, a longer time was granted than was expected, considering how heinously he had offended so good and mild a Prince: During the time of his Reprieve he was carryed before the Counsel and examined, having Mercy rendered him if he would accept it, upon condition to declare his knowledge concerning the late Diabolick Contrivances; but no Confession could be got out of him, being hardened with foolish promises of being great in another World, for living wickedly in this; for such are the fond Opinions of such who court that imposturous Religion or Principle, &c. The small discovery he made was only relating to the Lands the *Jesuits* have lately purchased in *England*, where to uphold and maintain their Hellish Practises, the which amounteth to 60000 *l. per Annum* Estate: So have those Locusts made their footing good in this our *English* Nation, longing once more to bring so fair a soile *sub jugo Romani*, having once tasted the pleasantness of its delights, but he not confessing any thing to the purpose, the Warrant was signed for his Execution this day, being the 14th as aforesaid.

In the mean time he put up a Petition, intreating for Banishment, but hard it is to trust so dangerous a man abroad, lest there he should injure us more then at home; his Petition not taking effect; preparation was made in order to his Execution, at which he seemed not much dejected, for on the *Saturday* night before his Execution he seemed exceeding joyful at approaching Death, and expressed himself much satisfied at the certainty of his transmigration to another state, but more because he foreknew the time prefixed, often kneeling on a book with frequent Prayer and Ejaculations, seeming to contemn the hopes of life, and to promise to himself a more solid and substantial joy: He being brought down and placed in the Sledg, he seemed to be little or nothing discouraged at the near approach of Death, that ghastly King of terrors, whose dread frowns can startle the daring, the that *Roman* mischiefs can invent; he being placed in the Sledg, did often extend his hands and arms with elevated countenance, seeming exceeding penitent, from which place being guarded by the *Sheriff's* men, a number of Constables and Watchmen, according to the order in that case, as he past on whole crowds of people thronged in every corner of the Streets and Lanes, to see the miserable wretch of whom they lately heard so much. During the time of his being drawn along, he made many silent Prayers and Ejaculations, and so continued till he came to the place of Execution, the which was about 11 o'clock in the morning, as aforesaid, where being arriv'd and holpen into the Cart, the which was ready prepared for that purpose, where he made many protestations, and denied that he knew any intreague or design by the *Catholick*, against this Nations



or any of his Majesties Countreyes, and Dominions, and as to a letter written by a Person of Quality the which was alleged against him, he was altogether ignorant of, and that it was undeservedly laid to his charge, making many protestations of his Majesties bounty and Princely Compassion towards him, that he had so long been pleased to grant him time to fit and prepare himself for another Life, the which he was going to pass unto, and that his transitory being now upon the utmost verge of hope, therefore he desires forgiveness of all that he had any ways injured, desiring the prayers of all good People, saying, that he had held the Tenents of the Church of *Rome* a long time, and that he had been very zealous in the propagating that Faith, and had likewise caused his Son to be Educated in the same, and that he did acknowledge his Sovereign Lord King Charles the second, to be his just and lawful Prince, without any mental reservation or equivocation, according to the true meaning of the Oath of Allegiance, and did faithfully believe and hold him to be the lawful inheritor of these Realms, and that neither the *Pope* nor any other foreign Potentate had right to dispossess him of his Crown, or depose him of his Government, nor to incense any to take up Arms, or raise Rebellion, either to the prejudice of himself or his Subjects, nor to disturb the Government of the Kingdom, as it is now established, and that the life of his Majesty ought to be held sacred, upon the account of the preservation of his Subjects, and that he never was so much as Guilty of a secret thought; the which might any ways tend to the hurt of his Majesty; and thought himself bound in conscience, If he should be privy to any thing in that Nature, immediately to disclose it; and if that any conspiracy, design or intent whatsoever, were about to be put in practice, that then he was obliged to reveal it, as he tendered his Eternal welfare, and hoped to escape Damnation. These and many other protestations, so common to those kind of desperate people who trust *Rome's* Indulgences, and pardons, pinning their Consciences thereon, not weighing the displeasure of an angry God, but depend upon the infallibility of their *Roman* Imposture; that devourer of souls, whose Tyrannies too oft have made the Nation groan: But to the purpose, after his attestations and absolute denials, he was executed according as the law in that case has provided for such notorious Traytors, yet moved the hearts of many to pity him by reason of his age and gravity, being a tall man, of a Sanguine Complexion, and of a moderate grace and gesture, and a man of eloquent, and Authentick endowments, having been a Counsellor for many years, &c. After he was cut down and quartered, by his Majesties order his quarters were delivered to his friends, in order to their Burial.

And now one would suppose that this, and many other the untimely ends of such like miscreants, who have of late, for their abhorrid Crimes been justly made the Trophy of pursuing justice, should stand as marks to warn their brethren, lest they should headlong press upon those dangerous shoals of an untimely Fate: But 'tis in vain, pernicious men, that bend on black designs, rush forwards, not caring where they go, so they accomplish their destructive Ends.